



UNITED STATES MINT NEWS & VIEWS

DAVID A. LEBRYK, ACTING DIRECTOR

OCTOBER 2005

WEST VIRGINIA QUARTER HONORS ENGINEERING TRIUMPH



The fifth and final coin for 2005 in the United States Mint's popular 50 State Quarters® Program was released to the public in a ceremony at the State Capitol, in

Charleston on Friday, October 14, 2005.

The West Virginia quarter depicts the New River Gorge Bridge, an engineering marvel. It is the longest steel-arch bridge in the United States. The New River Gorge Bridge is also the second highest bridge in the United States, rising 876 feet above the gorge in southern West Virginia. The coin features the natural beauty of the Mountain State with its depiction of the New River Gorge National River that flows northward through the state.

Free United States Mint lesson plans about the West Virginia quarter may be downloaded at www.usmint.gov. Prior to the launch, the United States Mint hosted a Coin Collectors Forum, featuring Acting Director Lebryk and Associate Director of Sales and Marketing Gloria Eskridge. The public was invited to tell the United States Mint what they'd like to see on their coins.

HISTORIAN'S OFFICE DISPLAYS ARTIFACTS AT SUMMER ANA

Among the exhibits prepared by the United States Mint for this year's ANA World's Fair of Money was a presentation by the Agency's Historian's Office. With a special focus on the original Jefferson nickel, the display includes many one-of-a-



kind items that have never before been on public display. These included original photographs, ledger books and correspondence, including a letter from Director Nellie Tayloe Ross to artist Felix Schlag, informing him

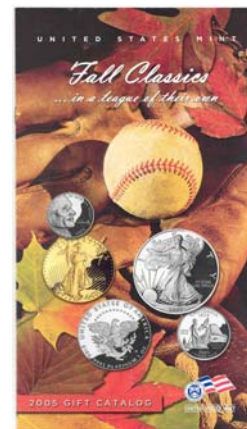
that his design had been chosen for the 1938 nickel. Visitors to the United States Mint's booth were also able to view copies of Schlag's original designs, complete with comments referencing their coinability. The artist's original reverse design, in particular, may be unfamiliar to many collectors as it featured a more angled view of Monticello.

2005 FALL CATALOG RELEASED

The United States Mint's annual fall catalog was available by mail and online beginning September 21, 2005.

The "United States Mint Fall Classics ...in a league of their own" features a new educational set for those who are just beginning to explore coin collecting. The Chief Justice John Marshall Silver Dollar, the return of the six-coin Westward Journey Nickel Series™ Coin Set, as well as numerous other popular numismatic collectibles, are all available through the catalog.

Priced at \$14.50, the new educational set – Collecting America's Coins: Beginner Basics – includes a one-cent planchet, a pair of circulating one-cent coins, a pair of satin-finish uncirculated dimes, and a proof condition half-dollar, with an information booklet providing a helpful introduction to numismatics.





WESTWARD JOURNEY NICKEL SERIES™ RETURNS TO MONTICELLO FOR 2006



The obverse of the 2006 nickel, the fifth and final coin in the Westward Journey Nickel Series™, is based on a portrait of Thomas Jefferson,

completed during the year in which he was elected our Nation's third President, by Rembrandt Peale.

The United States Mint's Artistic Infusion Program Master Designer Jamie Franki of Concord, North Carolina, designed the obverse.

The cursive "Liberty" inscription, which debuted on the 2005 nickels, is again presented in Jefferson's own handwriting. The obverse was engraved by United States Mint Sculptor-Engraver Donna Weaver.



The reverse of the 2006 nickel features the classic, familiar rendition of Monticello, President Thomas Jefferson's Virginia home, originally executed by artist Felix Schlag and first chosen to adorn the coin's reverse in 1938.

However, the design will be crisper and more detailed than Americans have seen it in recent years, having been carefully restored by the United States Mint, guided by Schlag's original work.

VIRTUAL TOUR II SHOWS NUMISMATIC PROCESSES

Following the successful launch of last year's Virtual Tour, an online, multimedia presentation detailing the step-by-step circulating coin production process, the United States Mint took the wraps off a sequel at this summer's ANA conference in San Francisco. The new tour, dubbed Virtual Tour II, guides viewers through a

multimedia tour of the numismatic production processes, focusing on the United States Mint's facilities

in San Francisco, where most of the proof coin production takes place, West Point, where the silver, gold and platinum American Eagle coins are manufactured as well as Philadelphia and Denver, where uncirculated sets are produced.



REMAINING CHIEF JUSTICE JOHN MARSHALL PRODUCTS

Time is running out to purchase the 2005-dated, limited-edition Chief Justice John Marshall Coin & Chronicles Set.

Struck in accordance with Public Law 108-290, these products honor the 250th anniversary of the Chief Justice John Marshall's birth in 1755.

Priced at \$59.95, the Coin & Chronicles set includes a Chief Justice John Marshall Uncirculated Silver Dollar, an intaglio print of a statue of the Chief Justice produced by the Bureau of Engraving and Printing, and an informative booklet about Marshall written by the Supreme Court Historical Society. The product limit for this set is 25,000 units.



Individual uncirculated and proof coins are also still available and are featured in the newly released Fall Catalog.